

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated March 27, 2009. Claims 1 to 12, 15 and 17 are pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 15 and 17 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 3, 5 to 9, 11, 12 and 15 to 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 7,194,696 (Mori). Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Mori in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,842,262 (Gillihan). Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Mori in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,621,590 (Livingston). Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

The present invention generally concerns converting original data into print data processible by a printing apparatus and more specifically concerns management of front and back surfaces of a printed sheet. In one aspect of the invention, a back-side attribute for a plurality of pages is set in response to reception of a single instruction to decide the back-side attribute via the second setting screen. The plurality of pages to which the back-side attribute is applied do not correspond to the front sides of the printing media but correspond to the back sides of the printing media.

Turning to specific claim language, amended independent Claim 1 is directed to a printing control method of converting original data into print data processible by a printing apparatus. The method includes the steps of displaying a first setting screen to set a basic attribute to be applied to whole print data and a second setting screen to set a back-side attribute to be applied to a plurality of pages which correspond to not the front sides of printing media but to the back sides of the printing media output in the double-sided printing; setting the basic attribute in response to reception of an instruction to decide the basic attribute via the first setting

screen; setting the back-side attribute for the plurality of pages which correspond not to the front sides of the printing media but to the back sides of the printing media in response to reception of a single instruction to decide the back-side attribute via the second setting screen; and generating the print data based on the basic attribute, the back-side attribute and the original data.

Applicant respectfully submits that the applied reference, namely Mori, is not seen to disclose or to suggest all of the features of independent Claim 1. In particular, Mori is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of a second setting step (unit) that sets a back-side attribute for a plurality of pages in response to reception of a single instruction to decide the back-side attribute via a second setting screen. The plurality of pages to which the back-side attribute is applied do not correspond to the front sides of the printing media but correspond to the back sides of the printing media.

Mori discloses a chapter setting window in Fig. 15 and a page setting window in Fig. 17. Applicant submits that setting of a print attribute via the chapter setting and page setting windows of Mori differ from Applicant's second setting step (unit) as described below.

In regard to Fig. 15 of Mori, a print attribute (e.g., paper size, page layout and zoom for area) may be set via the chapter setting window as shown. This set attribute is applied to all pages contained in selected chapters. For example, referring Fig. 20C, when the chapter setting window for chapter "Chap A" is displayed, the print attribute set in the displayed chapter setting window is applied to pages 1-1 to 1-8 that are all pages in the chapter "Chap A." In other words, the chapter setting set in the chapter setting window is applied to each page in a selected chapter without relation to whether or not the page is on the front side or back side of a sheet.

In regard to Fig. 17 of Mori, a page setting window as shown in Fig. 17 is provided for setting a print attribute to be applied to selected pages. For example, when a user

depresses the OK button in the page setting window shown in Fig. 17, the print attribute set in the page setting window is applied to only the currently selected pages. If the user wishes to apply the print attribute set in the page setting window to pages imposed on back sides of sheets, the user must select all the pages imposed on back sides with reference to, for example, page images displayed in a preview screen regardless of how many pages are contained. In this way, the user must input the number of instructions to designate pages corresponding to the number of pages to which the print attribute is applied. Therefore, the print attribute set in Fig 17 cannot be applied to all pages imposed on the back sides of the sheets by a single instruction.

Therefore, neither setting window of either Fig. 15 or Fig. 17 discloses or suggests setting the back-side attribute for the plurality of pages which correspond to not the front sides of the printing media but the back sides of the printing media in response to reception of a single instruction to decide the back-side attribute via the second setting screen as featured in Claim 1. Specifically, the window of Fig. 15 is only used to create a setting applied to an entire chapter while a setting set in the setting window of Fig. 17 must be applied page by page in order to have an effect on each back side of each sheet used in printing a plurality of pages.

In light of these deficiencies of Mori, Applicant submits that amended independent Claim 1 is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

Amended independent Claim 15 is directed to a printing control apparatus which converts original data into print data, substantially in accordance with the method of Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 15 is also now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

Amended independent Claim 16 is directed to a printing control apparatus which converts input drawing data into print data, substantially in accordance with the method of Claim

1. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 16 is also now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

Amended independent Claim 17 is directed to a computer-readable medium storing a computer program for recording a program for converting original data into print data, substantially in accordance with the method of Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 17 is also now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

Amended independent Claim 18 is directed to a computer-readable medium storing a computer program for converting input drawing data into print data, substantially in accordance with the method of Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 18 is also now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

The other pending claims in this application are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed allowable for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each dependent claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

CONCLUSION

No claim fees are believed due; however, should it be determined that additional claim fees are required, the Director is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account 50-3939.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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